GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:948
ANSWERED ON:08.02.2017
Spectrum for Telecom
Patel Shri Devji Mansingram

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the biggest challenges for Digital India Programme is slow pace of development of communication infrastructure and only ten percent spectrum is available to metro cities in India as compared to the developed countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the per capita availability of spectrum in Metro cities;

(c) whether most of the rural areas are deprived of internet facility as Internet service Providers are finding it economically unviable to provide the service in remote and rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) & (b) Spectrum in 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz bands has been allotted to Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in Metro cities. On an average 34.9 MHz spectrum in above spectrum bands has been allotted in Metro cities to each TSPs. Details of allotment of spectrum to TSPs in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Tamil Nadu including Chennai are at Annexure-I.

In the spectrum auction conducted in October 2016, a total of 2354.75 MHz of spectrum in these bands was put to auction, out of which, 964.8 MHz of spectrum was sold in 800 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz bands. Further, the Government has also permitted various cases for spectrum sharing and spectrum trading among telecom service providers as per the guidelines issued by the Government in this regard.

Therefore, availability of spectrum is not a reason for slow pace of development of communication infrastructure.

(c) & (d) As on 30th September 2016, there were 119.79 million Internet Rural subscribers out of total 367.48 million Internet Subscribers. Service Area-wise details of rural subscribers is enclosed as Annexure-II.

(e) The following schemes are being implemented with financial support from Universal Service Obligation Fund to improve internet facility in rural areas:-

(i) BharatNet is planned to create network infrastructure for providing broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. The Project is being implemented in a phased manner. Status of BharatNet phase-1 as on 29.01.2017 is as under:-

<pre>
Items Achievement
Pipe Laid(Kms) 1,98,064
Pipe Laid (GPs) 84,575
Optical Fibre Cable pulled(Kms) 1,72,257
Optical Fibre Cable pulled(GPs) 76,089
GPs provided with connectivity 16,305
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(ii) The Government approved a proposal for providing Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) connectivity from mainland India (Chennai) to Andaman & Nicobar Islands in September 2016 with estimated cost for CAPEX as Rs. 880.03 Crore and OPEX as Rs. 44.47 Crore per annum.

(iii) USOF schemes for Creation of OFC Infrastructure in North-East are being implemented to provide sufficient back-haul capacity to integrate the voice and data traffic from the access network in the rural areas to their core network OFC network augmentation between the Block HQ and Districts HQ in North-East.

(iv) The Rural Wireline Broadband Scheme has been implemented to provide wire-line broadband connectivity to rural & remote areas by leveraging the existing rural exchanges infrastructure and copper wire-line network. During the period from 2009 to 2015 a total of 6,56,345 broadband connections have been provided and 15,671 kiosks have been set up in rural and remote areas under this scheme.

<pre> Annexure-I
Spectrum holdings of Telecom Service Providers as on date in Metro cities
Sl. No. Service Area Name of the Telecom Service providers Spectrum holding by TSPs (in MHz) Avarage Spectrum Holding
800MHz Band (FDD) 900MHz Band (FDD) 1800MHz Band (FDD) 2100 MHz Band (FDD) 2300 MHz Band
(TDD) 2500 MHz Band
(TDD) Total Spectrum Holdings
1 Delhi Aircel Ltd - - 8.80 - 8.80 32.04
Bharti Airtel Limited - 12.00 14.00 20.00 30.00 76.00
Idea Cellular Ltd. - 10.00 17.20 - 27.20
Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd. 7.50 - 10.80 - 30.00 48.30
Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. - 12.40 4.40 10.00 26.80
Reliance Communications Ltd. 2.50 - 8.80 10.00 21.30
Sistema Shyam Teleservices Ltd. 7.50 - - - 7.50
Tata Teleservices Ltd. 12.50 - - - 12.50
Vodafone Mobile Services Ltd. - 10.00 20.00 10.00 20.00 60.00
Total in SA 30.00 44.40 84.00 50.00 60.00 20.00 288.40
2 Kolkata Dishnet Wireless Ltd. - - 8.80 10.00 18.80 34.00
Bharti Airtel Limited - 14.00 18.00 - 30.00 62.00
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited 2.50 12.40 7.60 10.00 32.50
Idea Cellular Ltd. - - 10.00 10.00 20.00
Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd. 10.00 - 20.00 - 30.00 60.00
Reliance Communications Ltd. 2.50 - - - 2.50
Reliance Telecom Ltd. - - 12.40 10.00 22.40
Sistema Shyam Teleservices Ltd. 7.50 - - - 7.50
Tata Teleservices Ltd. 7.50 - 8.80 - 16.30
Vodafone Mobile Services Ltd. - 14.00 20.00 10.00 20.00 64.00
Total in SA 30.00 40.40 105.60 50.00 60.00 20.00 306.00
3 Mumbai Aircel Ltd - - 8.80 - 8.80 38.18
Bharti Airtel Limited - 10.00 30.40 10.00 30.00 80.40
Idea Cellular Ltd. - - 12.80 10.00 22.80
Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd. 10.00 - 13.20 - 30.00 53.20
Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. - 12.40 4.40 10.00 26.80
Reliance Communications Ltd. 10.00 - 10.00 10.00 30.00
Tata Teleservices(Maharashtra) Ltd. 5.00 - 10.00 - 15.00
Vodafone Mobile Services Ltd. - 22.00 16.40 10.00 20.00 68.40
Total in SA 25.00 44.40 106.00 50.00 60.00 20.00 305.40
4 Tamil Nadu including Chennai Aircel Ltd - 15.60 24.80 10.00 50.40 35.42
Bharti Airtel Limited - 12.40 16.00 20.00 30.00 78.40
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited 5.00 12.40 7.60 10.00 35.00
Idea Cellular Ltd. - - 22.80 - 22.80
Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd. 7.50 - 13.60 - 30.00 51.10
Reliance Communications Ltd. 2.50 - 8.80 - 11.30
Sistema Shyam Teleservices Ltd. 7.50 - - - 7.50
Tata Teleservices Ltd. 7.50 - 8.80 - 16.30
Vodafone Mobile Services Ltd. - - 16.00 30.00 46.00
Total in SA 30.00 40.40 118.40 70.00 60.00 - 318.80
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FDD spectrum has been reflected as paired spectrum Average allotment in Metros 34.91

Annexure-II

Service Area-wise, Rural subscriber-base of Internet
as on 30th September, 2016
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Telecom Service Area Subscribers in Millions
Andhra Pradesh 9.68
Assam 3.82
Bihar 9.46
Delhi 0.67
Gujarat 6.94
Haryana 3.40

Himachal Pradesh 1.86
Jammu & Kashmir 0.68
Karnataka 5.68
Kerala 6.54
Kolkata 0.49
Madhya Pradesh 6.84
Maharashtra 10.30
Mumbai 0.32
North East 2.18
Orissa 3.88
Punjab 4.64
Rajasthan 7.52
Tamil Nadu 6.97
UP (East) 12.32
UP (West) 6.75
West Bengal 8.83
Total 119.79
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